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# THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ELY

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1939

BY

J. F. DAWSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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# T H E

# R U R A L  D I S T R I C T  O F  E L Y

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# A N N U A L  R E P O R T

for the year

1 9 3 9

by

J. F. D A W S O N

M. B., Ch.B., D. P. H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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# R U R A L  D I S T R I C T  C O U N C I L  O F  E L Y.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first Annual Report. One month after the outbreak of war, I commenced duties as your Medical Officer of Health, but owing to the extra amount of work resulting from Evacuation and Air Raid Precautions, time could only be given to urgent and essential Public Health matters.

It is encouraging to report the progress made with regard to Housing in the District. The Council and its Officers are to be congratulated on carrying on this good work in spite of the unsettled state of the Country.

My thanks are due to my predecessor Dr. Fairweather for his informative help when I took up duties and to the other Officers of the Council who have assisted and co-operated with me in my work.

The Minister of Health has asked Medical Officers to confine their report to essential and urgent matters. I have accordingly curtailed this report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. F. DAWSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

# S T A F F.

Medical Officer of Health:- J.W.C.FAIRWEATHER,M.B., Ch.B. till 30th September, 1939.
J.F.DAWSON. M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors:- A. Cross. Cert.R.S.I.

A. H. Eagle, A.R.San.I., Cert S.I.B.,M.S.I.A. (From February to November)

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (acres) .... .... | 66,082 |
| Resident Population (Registrar-General's estimate 1939). | 13,010 |
| Number of inhabited houses .... | 2,962 |
| Rateable Value .... .... | £31,277 |
| Amount represented by a 1d rate | £135 |

## VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | Total | M. | F. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births. | Legitimate | 179 | 115 | 64 | Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1939 - 14.52 |
| | Illegitimate | 9 | 6 | 3 | |
| Stillbirths | | 3 | 3 | - | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) - 15.95 |
| Deaths | | 183 | 97 | 86 | Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population - 13.73. |

| Deaths from Puerperal Cases : | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. |
|---|---|---|
| Puerperal sepsis | Nil. | Nil. |
| Other Puerperal causes | Nil. | Nil. |
| Total | Nil. | Nil. |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :-

| | |
|---|---|
| All infants per 1,000 live births. | 58.20 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. | 61.11 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. | Nil |

| | |
|---|---|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .... .... | 34 |
| do. do. Measles (all ages) .... .... | Nil |
| do. do. Whooping Cough (all ages) .... | 1 |
| do. do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .... | 1 |

LABORATORY FACILITIES.-

Dr. Honwood Harvey, 37 Green Street, Cambridge carries out bacteriological and pathological examinations of specimens submitted to him.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.-

Infectious cases are removed to Hospital in the Ely Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

For non-infectious and accident cases the ambulance maintained jointly by Ely Urban and Ely Rural District Councils is used.

Since the commencement of the war, three vehicles have been fitted out as ambulances which will be used in the event of casualties occurring as the result of air raids.

NURSING IN THE HOME.-

Nursing in the home is carried out by 5 district nurses.

HOSPITALS.

Ely Urban & Rural Joint Isolation Hospital is available for treatment of notifiable infectious diseases (excluding Measles and Whooping Cough).

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.-

As a result of the war there has been established 10 First Aid Points in the Rural District. These will deal with casualties resulting from air raids if such casualties occur in the district.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.- Farms, cowsheds and dairy premises (registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926) are periodically inspected throughout the year.

Meat and Other Foods.- Slaughterhouses, shops and premises used for the preparation of foods are periodically inspected.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.-

Drainage of most of the villages in the area is effected by drains which receive house drainage and also the surface water from adjoining highways. In all villages the effluent passes untreated into fen ditches.

WATER SUPPLY.-

There is little that may usefully be added to previous Annual Reports which indicate the entire Rural District enjoys the advantages of an abundant supply of wholesome water. An interconnection of the Ely Urban District Council and Rural District Council water mains was made at Moor Farm, Fordham in November.

HOUSING.-

My predecessor envisaged in his Annual Report for 1938 that the Council's housing programme would, during 1939 provide accommodation for some 500 persons living in unhealthy conditions and thus create a record in the matter of rehousing. Events have shewn the estimate not over optimistic, for, during the year, the Council's housing programme has provided accommodation for no less than 530 persons. This is a noteworthy achievement and the Council is to be congratulated on pursuing its vigorous housing policy.

It is worthy of record that at the end of the year under review, the Council's building programme had made provision for rehousing some 1,130 persons. The Housing Estates of the Authority now accommodate approximately 3,500 persons.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.-

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease in the Rural District.

| | |
|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... | 24 |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Enteric Fever ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ... ... | 2 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (contd).-

During the year 51.4% of the school children in the Ely Rural District were immunised against diphtheria and 12.5% of the evacuees were also immunised.

Immunisation was carried out at the schools. The prophylactic used was Toxoid - Antitoxin Floccules (Suspension).

TUBERCULOSIS.-

Eleven new cases were notified to me during the year. 5 Male (4 Respiratory, 1 Non-respiratory); 6 Female (3 Respiratory, 3 Non-respiratory).

Deaths.

| Respiratory. | | Non-respiratory. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 2. | -. | -. | -. |

SCHOOLS.

All schools have a supply of water from the Council main main. Many premises have had new washing basins provided and drains relaid or provided. Half the schools, and this includes those situated in the larger villages, have water closets either connected to the sewer or to cesspools. The remaining schools with one exception have the pail system. During 1939, Mepal school was provided with water closets, in place of privy pits, and drainage system relaid. It should be practicable in many cases where the pail system is still in use to convert to water carriage.